

21. (Thrice-Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer that includes a material having at least one of a polymer or a liquid crystal polymer in which an azimuth of birefringence that is induced by a recording light externally controlled from the optical recording medium to rotate a polarization angle of the recording light changes in response to a rotation of the polarization angle of said recording light; and a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer.

35. (Thrice-Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer including an optical recording material having at least one of a polymer or a liquid crystal polymer that stores multilevel information using a light induced birefringence that acts optically as a half-wave plate, an orientation of an azimuth of birefringence formed by a recording light representing the multilevel information, the recording light externally controlled from the optical recording medium to rotate a polarization angle of the recording light; and

a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer.

37. (Thrice-Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer including an optical recording material having at least one of a polymer or a liquid crystal polymer that stores multilevel information using a light induced birefringence that acts optically as a quarter-wave plate, at orientation of an azimuth of birefringence induced by controllably rotating a polarization angle of a recording light externally from the optical recording medium that represents the multilevel information; and

a substrate which sustains the optical recording layer.

39. (Thrice-Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising an optical recording layer having at least one of a polymer or a liquid crystal polymer in which an azimuth of birefringence induced by controllably rotating a polarization angle of a recording